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DEBRIEFING OF FRANCIS GARY POWERS

Tape: #4

Date 14 February 1962

Time:

Present: Mr. Cunningham

Mr. Powers

Cunningham: Well Frank, I think, Kelley told me as we're leaving he was real glad to have had a chance to talk to you.

Not just from a technical point of view but as a human being type person. He's retained a very strong interest in your whole situation ever since the first day, and he's really a wonderful guy. I don't know whether you got to know him at all during training, but -

Powers: No, I didn't but -

Cunningham: The rest of the gang of whom you knew all or got to know him -- some of them got to know him pretty well back at Edwards think he's pretty swell. But, he was very genuine about your associating with the company if you wanted to and the first thing he said to me when -- Oh,

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[redacted] - Chief cook, bottle washer.

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Cunningham: What did you do?

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[REDACTED] I don't know, I just went up the road...

Cunningham: Have you had something to eat?

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Powers: I had something to eat.

[REDACTED] Would you like a coke or something? How about you, Jim,  
would you prefer a coke?

Cunningham: No, I could use a little of that hot stuff, it's so damn cold  
up here.

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[REDACTED] I can give you a coke too if you like.

Cunningham: No, that's all right.

Cunningham: The first thing he did was to call me and ask if he should  
make a statement to this effect if any inquiry came.

Powers: Naturally.

Cunningham: I said, well, I didn't think so because obviously he hadn't  
had a chance to talk to you and also the whole question  
of people making statements had been pretty well centralized  
by that time, but he's quite sincere about this. In fact, we  
talked about it in the car coming up, but he was unsure as to

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exactly where you might want to locate but you may now know this, and I'm sure you have had time to think about it, but the C-130 operation down at Marietta is quite actively along with the Jet Star, which I think you may vaguely remember.

Powers: Yes, I remember, twin-engine.

Cunningham: Four-engine now. They've added, the original prototype had Bristol Orphus engines on it, and then when they finally built it for the Air Force, they built it as a four-engine job with a little, ah, what is it, it weighs about, less than 600 pounds each of these engines, and they kick out around 3,000 pounds of thrusts a piece.

Powers: It looks big enough.

Cunningham: It's a real beautiful little plane. Of course, the Air Force bought them in modest quantities. They're horribly expensive like any jet airplanes today, but that's going on down there and then, of course, since the President has taken some active steps regarding reemployment of people in depressed areas why Lockheed has opened a plant in West Virginia for sub-assemblies on the 130, [redacted]

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I said why don't you stop in here and tell the employment office you'd like to hire somebody knowing that Fairchild which was right down the road was having trouble keeping their labor force together, and he said, hell, Lockheed's going to subcontract the leading edge of the wing of the new C-141, which is the, this is the monster cargo, all purpose cargo airplane which Lockheed has a contract for. So, he said, we have Lockheed plants all over the east and I said, well, have you got any thoughts as to which one of these Frank might be interested in. He said, I don't know, Georgia seemed like an absolutely first.

Powers: Well, for the ...

Cunningham: But, as you think about it

Powers: I'm qualified for little today except flying, and I don't even know how I can do that now. So, it would mean that

Cunningham: Have you had any, my one experience of getting out of an airplane in a hurry from 7,000 feet -- you know how they do, they usually jam you back in the next morning and take you up for a ride.

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Powers: Um hum.

Cunningham: Have you developed any reservations about flying at all  
ham: since that time?

Powers: No, none at all. I've often wished I could. I saw several  
Soviet jets fly over occasionally and it looked awfully nice  
just seeing a jet aircraft, even if it did have a red star on  
the wing. I believe I have to do a lot of thinking about this,  
I don't know. I'm sure that the Air Force is letting me out.

Cunningham: Have you talked to [redacted] on the subject.

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Powers: Yes, and he said we prefer not to have too much to do with  
this, and I can understand that, and that brings up the prob-  
lem too because see I would have had something like, what  
is this, '62, about twelve years in the service and retire-  
ment would be closer.

Cunningham: Age closer -

Powers: Uh huh, and that, I had planned, I mean I had thought that  
when all of this was over maybe I could. I hadn't thought  
that there would be a lot of reasons why it wouldn't be a  
good idea, but I can see that there is, so that's all right.

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Cunningham: Well, I think you need not be concerned that somebody is going to just pull a chain on you at a certain point here, I mean if it isn't Kelley, it will be somebody else, and we have the responsibility in which we will see is filled. Of course, as you know, the purely flying jobs are not falling off trees these days.

Powers: Right. Well, it might be pretty difficult. It's been almost two years since I've been in one of them, and I'm sure I could fly but

Cunningham: Well, you know, it's amazing. I've been away from it a lot longer than you have, and I got an aircraft in the spring of last year while I was on a trip, and I had, that was the only choice I had, to either charter an airplane or walk.

Powers: Um hum.

Cunningham: So, I said well abba kadabber and a way we go, and I had to cock the check and a fast fifteen minutes with the manual and got in and flew it away. I wouldn't say I made the world's greatest takeoff and landing the first time.

Powers: You might have.

Cunningham: But, it was amazing to me just how much stuck with me and, as I say, I haven't been flying actively since 1951, and since

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that time it's been, I really think it's like driving a bike.

Powers: Or, driving a car.

Cunningham: The only thing you've got to watch yourself on is your habits, so that you don't goof off and forget the checklist.

Powers: Um hum.

Cunningham: And it's amazing how many old and bold boys still do forward the checklist. We had one not long ago where a guy had 14,000 hours and landed wheels up.

Powers: That happens quite often.

Cunningham: It's the old story, he was too tired to see the light, and the horn didn't make enough noise, and the samethings have been going on since I can remember.

Powers: Well, that was very nice of you to mention this. Of course, I'll have to wait and see what all happens and how everything turns out.

Cunningham: Well, I think, excuse me, I spoke to [redacted] this morning, and we, of course, have had your records until -

Powers: Yeah, I want to say something about this.

Cunningham: He's got your records, your contract, and all that sort of thing, so we can begin administering the contract all over again in a sense, you know, because you are in a different

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status right now. But you're not going to be just terminated from the contract. You're still on it. You were on it the whole time you were gone.

Powers: Well, I think, I didn't know what the contract would be, but I think my father was telling me that Eisenhower had said my pay wouldn't go home or something like that. I was wishing at the time he wouldn't have said it, because he said it in front of some of those people over there. Of course, it didn't hurt anything. Even this is something that surprised me. Coming back from Moscow to Berlin, the interpreter, seemed to me he was a lawyer, I'm not sure, a fairly old man. Well, I couldn't guess his age. Well, he said that he had read American laws and said that they had to continue my pay.

Cunningham: He's pretty right!. In other words, the so-called missing-in-action clause became effective, which simply freezes the contract as it is.

Powers: Did we have a clause like that in there?

Cunningham: Um hum. Well, this contract came under the provisions of the Missing Persons Act, so-called, which was simply a line in the contract that effects -

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Powers: That brings up something else, speaking of this contract. See I told them, the papers, later I realized it was a very stupid thing to do, but at the time I thought it was best, because I was trying to impress them with the fact that everything I told them was the truth,, so that when I wanted to tell them a lie they would not harp on it too much and maybe believe it. And, I was trying to anticipate what would be in the press. And, I can remember, never in something like this, but when something happens to someone they usually have what job he's doing, how much pay he's making, etc., and I thought it might possibly be this. And I was pretty shook up at the time too, and I guess that kept me from thinking too good. But, I don't guess it would ever have been released if I hadn't said anything about it.

Cunningham: No, we would not have, I don't think.

Powers: I thought that was one of the things that might have been and,

Cunningham: No, that certainly is an administrative detail which was included among the things which we would have ordinarily expected that would have been throw away items as the trade talk goes. In other words, things that, of them by

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themselves were not critical in terms of the actual point which we wanted to preserve.

Powers: Um hum.

Cunningham: So that the actual pay, while it was discussed, I think it was more of a surprise to the Russian people than it was to anybody on this side of the water.

Powers: Did they release the figure to the papers?

Cunningham: Well, I believe at the trial was it not mentioned?

Powers: Oh yes, it was.

Cunningham: I read newspaper reports saying it was, and all the murmur of the crowds and everybody was saying ooh or something like that.

Powers: Yes, I think that. Well, I was trying to do my best and didn't know quite what to do part of the time.

Cunningham: It's a little hard to get any close guidance under those circumstances.

Powers: Yes.

Cunningham: I gather you know about the group coming up here tomorrow who will be here representing our operations interests, and I just wanted to have a word with you on this. We have

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our portion of it, let's say, which deals primarily with machinery and aerodynamics, and the mission itself, and the briefing, and all that you received, so that we are responsible basically for this portion of your--have you got enough--so that my appearance at this point with Kelley was simply to discuss a portion of this but not necessarily to go into the depth that some of the boys from Mission Planning Business will want to do. I think you know most of these boys-

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**Powers:** That's the name I've been trying to think of.

**Cunningham:** He's been with us since he came back from over there,

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and [redacted] whom I'm not sure you knew. He was major

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[redacted] at that point. He is now a civilian. A white-haired chap, who is our intell chief in the division.

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**Powers:** Oh, no.

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**Cunningham:** [redacted] are both in the division. There will be also one guy who is coming in from Omaha, [redacted]

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You remember [redacted] I'm sure.

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**Powers:** Yes.

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**Cunningham:** [redacted] is out with General Power now in SAC, and he and another chap named [redacted] whom you don't know,

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who is representing, well, he's from the Navy--he's a civilian.

Powers: Um hum.

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Cunningham: There's [redacted] who are here as representatives of what has now become since you gone the Defense Intelligence Agency, which is the militant combination of the old A-2, G-2, ONI combine, and General Carroll, who used to head OSI, is the head man in that, and they're acting, in effect, as a focal point for all the areas of interest and, of course, you can imagine how many there are.

Every service has an item of concern.

Powers: Right.

Cunningham: SAC, of course, you can understand the indoctrinal side of it. Where do we go from here in our defense of (prospering), etc. So that they will be here, [redacted] will be

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here simply as observers. On the other hand, they may want to ask you a question, but they have not got an active role in the script as it were. [redacted] if he can get up out of the sick bed, he will be up as well, and I think that's about it. Now, I've asked [redacted] to sort of chair the group, because he has worked, I think, more

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consistently on the whole problem from the operation point of view than any of us. In fact, this book that you were looking at in here was virtually his baby. And, so this again is designed to give us a record of the chronology beginning with the presumably the time you left [redacted] and covering the whole thing, mission briefings, weather, and the whole bloody business.

**Powers:** A lot of that's hard to recall.

**Cunningham:** I realize that, and I had suggested to them that they do this gradual sort of thing because I think you'll find even though there's been a considerable lapse of time, that as these questions come up -

**Powers:** The questions will help.

**Cunningham:** Things were going to be, Jesus, I hadn't thought of that in months, you know, but come to think of it, this is what did happen. Colonel Beerli would have been here, except he got himself married last Saturday.

**Powers:** That's what I heard.

**Cunningham:** And, I had more trouble finding him than I had finding you. He apparently has left without a trace.

**Powers:** I heard he was going to Florida and then to Sun Valley.

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Cunningham: He changed Sun Valley to Stowe, Vermont, at the last  
moment:

moment, so, as near as I can tell, if he isn't south, he's north. But, their questioning I don't think is going to take too horribly long, but you may find, of course, in the course of these various discussions you may be going over the same thing time and time again. This is not being done to trap you. But, for example, General Powers called yesterday. He wanted his man tomorrow in this act, etc., and then we sort of moved it over and got a channel through Defense Intelligence, but he said o. k., but I still would like, at some point further down stream, a couple weeks from now maybe to have Powers flown out to Omaha for a day up here, because some of the people in the tactics side are going to be anxious to question you, and I have a message in here which came in from Omaha with a lot of detail, with a lot of things that they are interested in-- some of which are identical with the things we are interested in, but others which pertain only to SAC's problems.

Powers: Um hum.

Cunningham: And, I'm sure there will be others. I think probably the  
ham:

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Navy has their interest is, oh yes, there's one more chap  
who's coming up named [redacted] who's from our OSI,

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I don't think you know him, but he's the ELINT expert on  
readout of ELINT tapes, etc. I think he may want to ask  
you some questions about ..... briefs, and that sort of  
thing.

Powers: What could the Navy be interested in?

Cunningham: Navy has a heck of an interest in the Granger.  
*Granger is the best of all the [redacted]*

Powers: Uh huh, that ah -

Cunningham: Which and, of course, Kelly has. Because, Kelly at one point, in fact, Kelly and I were talking about it last night. One of the early problems we had with Granger under certain operative conditions, it tended to reverse itself and to act as a beacon. Now, this was rectified by, very early in the game, long before it was deployed by simply increasing the power output and redesigning the gear a little bit. There's no indication since 1 May 1960 that there has been a duplication of any such phenomenon, and we don't say that there was but there's nothing to lead us to believe that it operated in that way in your case.



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Powers: Um hum.

Cunningham: But, everybody's got a piece of an interest in the thing, and I know it's going to be exhaustive for you, but I assure you, it's being undertaken with the desire to increase the information available to us, and not to embarrass you or to make an issue somewhere else.

Powers: I don't think anyone, maybe we shouldn't say that.

Cunningham: But, I'm quite sure that SAC will be interested in whether or not any of the line of questioning you underwent involved SAC, your knowledge of SAC and their tactics, etc. I mean, you might just be turning this over in your mind as you think about it.

Powers: Um hum. They were interested in SAC, but not as that. I think .... they wanted to know if any of my (flights) were flown in coordination with other (flights), I mean the border (flights). I told them that was, well they know nothing about some of these other things.

Cunningham: Yeah. Did you ever get the feeling in the course of this thing that there was an expert airman involved in briefing you. In other words, were there any, debriefing, debrief-

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ing, were there any people whom you could clearly recognize as knowledgeable aerodynamist or power plant people?

Powers: They, they had what they called some experts in this with questions, and the committee of them-

Cunningham: Was this just prior to the trial, I imagine?

Powers: It was before the trial sometime. I don't remember what year, but they talked about the equipment, were interested in the airplane, they had one man I only saw him one time. He was definitely a pilot, and I don't know whether he was just trying to ~~trick~~ trick me or not, but pretty stupid questions, he asked. He just couldn't understand how I could undertake such a flight without practicing just inside the border... He was probably trying to get me to admit I had been across the border more than once.

Cunningham: Did they ever ask you about your Middle Eastern flights?

Powers: They, I don't think they know about those. The only other thing they brought up, the April 9th flight. They wanted to know where I was on April the 9th. Of course, I was there, and I told them I had no way of knowing where I

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was on April the 9th, I can't remember. What day was that, and they said Saturday, I think. I said, probably drunk at the officers club. And they let it go. But, they kept-

Cunningham: They didn't know how much you drank, in other words.

Powers: No, they kept harping on me. They didn't believe me that I had only flown one flight. I never told them any difference. They just, that there was one, and they kept coming back to that and they also mentioned some B-57-D flights out of Germany in 1956, which I think there was a little mistake on the aircraft, but nothing about this Middle East. They didn't bring it up.

Cunningham: I believe, as I remember-

Powers: Also, there was nothing about this operation we had in 1957, I believe it was.

Cunningham: The one that [redacted] was involved in.

Powers: Um hum.

Cunningham: Do you attribute this, I mean, did they ever say why they didn't?

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Powers: No, they were asking me what the job was, and I told them I was hired primarily to fly along the border, and we also did weather flights, etc., and I played up this border deal quite a bit, because I knew that they knew that was going on. And, they asked about other flights, and I told them I had even flown over the Mediterranean on weather flights, but they asked no questions, and I volunteered no information on any of the Middle Eastern countries. And, as far as I know, it appears to me that they didn't even think of it, and I can't understand that.

Cunningham:  
ham: Of course, this is all hazardous guessing, maybe on my part, but one of the things I have sort of suspicioned for a long time is that they were trying to make you on this one activity. You know, after all if a guy is, let's change the analogy for a moment, but if you are involved in a long career of breaking and entering, it may be sufficient for the purposes of the law to bring the trial on a single robbery. The rest of it is just too much trouble.

Powers: Well, they, I don't know, I don't believe that if they had known that information they would have tried to have gotten it out of me.

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Cunningham: Did they ask you how many hours you had in the U-2?

Powers: Yes. I told them, as near as I could guess, the approximate truth.

Cunningham: Um hum.

Powers: But, and that's why I played up this weather flight's importance, because I had to fill up those hours.

Cunningham: Sure. As we looked over the record of the number of flights afterwards, you, like the . . . you had more Middle Eastern flights than anybody put together, you had eighteen. ✓

Powers: I don't know.

Cunningham: Of which we could classify as Middle Eastern flights.

And, of course, I was always curious, and I know a lot of us were, as to whether that had just been not discussed with you.

Powers: That definitely surprised me, because I was expecting that all the time, because it seems to me that even if they didn't know that they would have assumed that an airplane of this capability would have been good in that.

Cunningham: Did they ever ask you in any kind of detail how stagings

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were undertaken? Any of the business of where you derived your logistics support?

Powers: Yes.

Cunningham: What kind of airplanes flew you into the staging area and so on?

Powers: Yes.

Cunningham: Did that seem to interest them a great deal, or were they just sort of passing along in the course of that?

Powers: It didn't seem to interest them very much. They didn't refer to it very much, but just asked. I told them some, because I figured they knew about it. I don't know whether they did or not, but I know they do know a lot about the border flights, because I had heard that when we would take our border flights, there were other planes in the air, and so they knew there was probably U-2s and other planes, and they asked me this, and, of course, I knew nothing about it.

Cunningham: Did they ever say in so many words that they knew the U-2 had been flying on the borders to you?

Powers: No.

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Cunningham: They did not. Or, did they ever say that they knew that  
the U-2 had been overflying the Soviet Union before, or  
did they?

Powers: They mentioned April the 9th. I don't know whether they  
said U-2.

Cunningham: Other than the 9th?  
Ham:

Powers: But, I don't think so.

Cunningham: This was our old friend, [redacted] in the days I remember.  
Ham:

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Powers: No, that was [redacted] Air Force.

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Cunningham: Oh yes, it was, [redacted] was somewhere in between.  
Ham:

Powers: He was earlier.

Cunningham: Yeah, because I know I got the .... the day he got up from  
down below ....

Powers: They asked me about that, if there were any other nationali-  
ties working there, and they know nothing of [redacted]  
being with us.

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Cunningham: How did you answer the question of the other nationalities?  
Ham:

Powers: I told them (no). The United States is made up of several  
nationalities. We have French, we have Italians, Greeks,

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and there, and I said I know we have a couple of Italians  
there. I answered it that way, that these people were  
Americans, but their nationalities was-

Cunningham: You couldn't tell what their nationality was from their  
name?

Powers: Um hum. But, they didn't harp on that either.  
So, apparently they don't know anything about their co-  
operation.

Cunningham: I know the people over there were waiting around for  
the other shoe to drop.

Powers: Boy, I knew they would be sitting there waiting.

Cunningham: Even after the trial, there was a feeling on their part,  
well, they're saving this one for the UN.

Powers: Um hum.

Cunningham: The General Assembly meeting, and, of course, when  
it didn't come about, it really mystified some people,  
particularly [redacted] and the first thing I got on  
Monday morning was a cable over there saying, don't  
forget, we're still interested.

Powers: Um hum.

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Cunningham: This was from [redacted]

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Powers: Well, they know nothing about it, as far as I know.

Cunningham: Did they ever ask you if the Turkish Air Force was involved?

Powers: No, they never did.

Cunningham: They never asked you about any of the Turkish personalities who might have come into the act of it, and any end of detachment? I realize that . . . I'm concentrating on the air phase here simply -

Powers: They asked about the base, whether it was purely an American base or whether Turkish personnel were on the base, and I told them it was Turkish personnel.

Cunningham: Um hum.

Powers: And, but as far as whether they had any concern with us or not, I don't think they -

Cunningham: Did they ever ask you any leading questions in the area of airfield information on domestic airfields in the United States or airfields in Europe, or any sort of that thing?

Powers: No, but they got my jet letdown chart, and they had a

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radio fact chart of Europe, I think it was, but as far as any information, they were only interested in Turkey there and Adana.

Cunningham: Um hum. They never asked you, for example, that you flew from Cyprus or any of that sort of thing?

Powers: No. Oh yes, yes, yes, yes, telling them about taking a flight from Germany to the United States. It was actually from [redacted] to the United States, but I didn't want to mention [redacted] so I changed it to Germany, and Geibelstadt was mentioned.

Cunningham: They mentioned it to you, or you mentioned it to them, or something?

Powers: I can't remember. I think I must have mentioned it to them.

Cunningham: But, they never asked you, or did they mention, ask you any questions about the German Air Force, for example, and their knowledge of these activities?

Powers: No, as well as I can remember.

Cunningham: Did they seem to be astounded in any way about a range as they presumably extrapolated it in the aircraft when they talked to you about ferry flights, for example, from

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Germany to the states, did they ask you where you refueled, or any of that sort of thing?

Powers: No, see they had my flight plan, the map, and that was (Max) ranged.

Cunningham: Did they know it was (Max) range, or did they just sort of -

Powers: I think they could figure it out by the fuel chart, etc.

Cunningham: Did you get quizzed on how many gallons you had at high (cone) and on a normal flight, or any of that sort of business? What your radio communications procedures were?

Powers: Yes. They were very interested in whether I had made a radio call at the time this took place, and I didn't tell them for quite a while. Later on, I admitted that I had made none, because I had made some sort of a bargain with them. You see, I thought they would not notify the United States officials. I don't know, a lot of things were running through my mind at that time. I was pretty shook up, and I wanted you people to know, and also my relatives, and I thought that maybe I would just be shot

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and forgot about. Of course, I didn't realize that they wouldn't do that, because of the publicity they'd get from it. I didn't realize at the time, so I told them I wouldn't answer this question until they notified my people, and they said-

Cunningham: This was presumably though after this whole thing had become a-

Powers: They had already been notified.

Cunningham: By Khrushchev's, what was it, the 5th of May, I guess,

Powers: And, I think it was somewhere around the 15th that they told me that Khrushchev had mentioned it, and also that some of the things, that my wife was on the way to the states, and all that sort of stuff, or was with, or was in the states, and since they know these radios better than I do probably, and they knew what type they were, and they know the range of them, I could see no reason to tell them that I did contact you people because they could prove that I didn't.

Cunningham: Um hum.

Powers: That was my thinking.

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Cunningham: Did they ever ask you whether you had any familiarity with single sideband equipment?

Powers: No.

Cunningham: In other words, the SAC communications system.

In other words, did they ask you whether this aircraft was completed any differently than any other airplanes you flew at any time. In other words, in the sense of there may have been some things on this one which might not have been on some of the other detachment aircraft or vice versa.

Powers: Well, I told them I knew nothing at all about the equipment, and I told them that when the equipment was loaded, no one saw it but the people and-th- who loaded it, and the map showed what to do, when to turn on the switch, etc. And, they asked quite a few questions about this, but I couldn't give them answers, because I didn't know what was on it. I told them I assumed that there were different kinds of equipment, because you couldn't take pictures at night.

Cunningham: Yeah.

Powers: And I said also some was heavier than others, and that this

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one was one of the lighter ones, so that I could get up the maximum altitude, etc.

Cunningham:  
Um hum.

Powers: I don't know-

Cunningham:  
Did they ever indicate to you that they thought that this maximum altitude figure that you stuck to was possibly not the maximum altitude?

Powers: Well, the only indication, they never indicated as such, but they told me later that they had read, I think in the American papers, that the U.S. planned to continue these flights at 75,000 feet, and wanted to know if, I think they asked me then if this airplane would get to that altitude, and I said not unless they had a different engine.

Cunningham:  
Um hum.

Powers: Now, I don't know what their experts can do with the wreckage, or whether they can figure out from everything what it would do, but-

Cunningham:  
Pretty damn hard.

Powers: They didn't seem to disbelieve me on the altitude.

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Cunningham: They had the aspect ratio pretty well hacked. In the ham:  
public utterances anyway, so that they, as Kelly said to me several times, they would know the lift characteristics, of course. The only thing that might confuse them would be range under certain conditions and speeds under conditions, except that you're always working within the subsonic envelope.

Powers: Well, I told them the air speeds on different aircraft were different, because of the errors and everything, so that they couldn't or maybe would not take my checklist to be, or my speed schedules, etc., to be identical with others and so that-

Cunningham: Did they go over the mission profile with you, for example, ham:  
and ask you what your set patterns were for climb out and level off, and setting up cruise conditions, your power settings? Did they get into all that jazz and everything?

Powers: No, they didn't get into all that, and there were some notations on my flight log and maps that had some of this information on it that they had, but they didn't pay much attention to that.

Cunningham: You had a knee pad that day, or did you, or were you making ham:  
your entries on your, in your-

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Powers: Well, I had the knee pad, the flight log on my knees, and I made a lot of notations on the map also.

Cunningham: Had you been keeping that right up to the moment when, huh?

Powers: Yes and, in fact, I was, I think doing that, or just completed doing that, reading the instruments and putting the readings down when this happened, but some of that was missing.

Cunningham: Hum. You mean some of the actual document itself?

Powers: I didn't know that they had it in such a way that they brought it in in a folder of some kind.

Cunningham: Um hum.

Powers: And showed the whole, the whole thing, and asked me a few questions about it. I looked at it, there was a square out of one place, was torn off, and apparently they didn't have it. I can't remember just exactly what that covered. My fuel and oxygen consumption chart was not on it.

Cunningham: I see.

Powers: I don't know where it was. It must have been torn off, or

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something, but there was an old, you know the printed form of this. We made them all and pasted them on. The printed one was on it.

Cunningham: Uh huh.

Powers: There were some of these instrument readings left, and also the altitudes, and I'm very thankful that I used plus 20, plus 20.

Cunningham: I see, base, plus 20.

Powers: And, base is 48, so it made 68. The way I was thinking there was, well I feel sure that they shot me down somewhere. That's my opinion, and I figured if they could do that, then they knew fairly close what the altitude was. I wanted to save as much as possible, but I didn't figure I could go down safe to 65 because 5,000 feet might make too much difference, so I said 68.

Cunningham: Did they ever discuss the maximum interception performance of any of their Soviet manned aircraft with you, like the MIG-19, the MIG-17?

Powers: No, they're always bragging about having airplanes

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that could fly that high, etc., but-

Cunningham: Did they ever mention zoom flying capability in any of their aircraft? In other words, we've stripped down a 19 that can go higher than you can.

Powers: No, but there were several releases in the ~~papers~~ there later when they said they set records with this E-66, I think they called it, or something like that, but that's the only thing. They never during the investigation, they never said a word about it. They just were sorta bragging that they had things that could fly that high, but I figured they didn't have, or we would (have been flying them).

Cunningham: But they never specifically mentioned the employment of any Soviet man tactical aircraft against any U-2s in the past, or anything of that kind?

Powers: No, the only thing they mentioned actually when they said there was a flight on April the 9th. I said well if there was a flight on April the 9th, why didn't you shoot it down? I intentions was waiting to see what his ~~intention~~ were, and he didn't come in as far as you did.

Cunningham: Oh .  
ham:

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Powers: That's right.

Cunningham:  
ham: Could you draw an inference from that, that the thing  
that excited their actions on the 1st of May was the distance  
in as opposed to the mere fact that it was a penetration?

Powers: No. This was, their story was that-

Cunningham:  
ham: Alibi for themselves.

Powers: Yes, they were waiting to see whether the plane was,  
what its intentions were, ~~when it made them know~~ when it  
got so far in, they assumed that it was hostile and shot it  
down, implying that they could have done it much earlier.

Cunningham:  
ham: Did they ever discuss their tracking of you in any way?

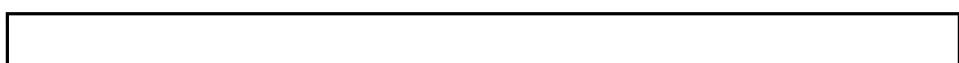
Powers: They gave me, showed me charts that had radar track on  
them, but it was on the map.

Cunningham:  
ham: Would you say, that compared to the charts you've seen  
here, that it resembled this chart in any way?

Powers: Could I see that chart?

Cunningham:  
ham: I know they'll ask you other questions on it presumably in  
the next day or so.

Powers: They didn't say very much about it at all, except just-



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Cunningham: Do you want the large one or the small one? This one?

ham:

Powers: No, the other one. I think it was very similar to the one they had on the wall there at Gorki Park, or whatever park that was.

Cunningham: Oh yes, Gorki.  
ham:

Powers: And they had, every altitude reading they had there was 20,000 meters, except the one they had at 22,000.

Cunningham: Yeah.  
ham:

Powers: And I think, well, it wasn't like this.

Cunningham: As I recall, the chart they had looked, the one that was on the wall, they had squared it off this way, so that the line looked as though it were going this way, the bottom down here was down there, close to where we had it.

Powers: I don't remember exactly.

Cunningham: Um hum. Yeah. This was the hunch we had. In fact, some of the photographs, not the photographs they handed out but the photographs which we managed to get from people who had gone through the display, they were a little bit more indicative, although they kept from hustling through,

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they had a camera, indicated that the compartment back there had been retained fairly intact.

Powers: It looked like-

Cunningham: There was some sort of reflection on -

Powers: And, the tape, it was different. They had a couple of places that I was making quite a few turns, where I didn't make any turns. I mean weaving back and forth in some places, and I definitely didn't do that in the flight. I noticed that, in particular, they had had, what are all these?

Cunningham: These are your flight altitudes reported on their net. In other words, 69, 9. In other words they were all screwed up, as you can see here.

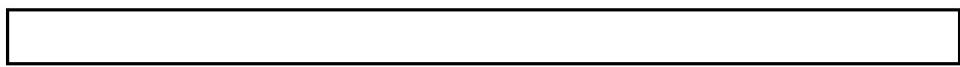
Powers: 68-8. Well, they had on the one they showed me, 20,000 meters, 20,000 meters, 22,000 meters, and then back down to 20,000 meters.

Cunningham: Uh huh.

Powers: But, they didn't have this. Penetration at 29?

Cunningham: Yes, that's where they had penetrating, at 29.

Powers: And then, their chart implied or showed that they had



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picked me up back over Afghanistan somewhere.

Cunningham:  
ham: Oh, I see.

Powers: And, ah-

Cunningham:  
ham: As I recall, your chart also had the turnoff points, your various abort points on here with your headings to home, didn't they?

Powers: It had up here. I had another chart that had turnoff points  
25X1 [redacted] I had it in my flight suit pocket, it was torn up in my parachute.

Cunningham:  
ham: Oh, I see. They never confronted you with that?  
I remember at the time-

Powers: There were several groups. Most of them were going  
25X1 to [redacted]

Cunningham:  
ham: Yeah. At the time, when we finally got through to Colonel  
25X1 Shelton, and to [redacted] they recalled you having had such a chart with these various headings to various homes, bases you know, and the . . . . we never knew whether they had it or didn't have it-

Powers: No, because it didn't show. I tore it in very small pieces and it must have scattered over a big area. They

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couldn't have possibly have gotten it.

Cunningham: Did you manage to get rid of anything else as you were dissembling your chute?

Powers: No. I felt around for my seat pack, but couldn't find it.

Cunningham: Oh, that did not go with you, huh?

Powers: Well, I don't know, because they brought it in with me, but I suppose maybe it slipped out or something, and, well, I don't know what use it would have had.

The shook up condition I was in right then, but I was still looking for that thing. I was going to open it up and try to take some stuff out.

I had some more stuff in my pockets that I could have taken out, but, well, I didn't know where I was going to land, and some of that stuff I wouldn't need. I wish I'd gotten rid of those escape maps and routes.

Cunningham: Did they work you over a considerable bit on the escape maps?

Powers: No. They went over the thing, showed them to me. In fact, there was another mistake, I had more than just the maps to cover my routes. At first, I think there were two flights planned.

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Cunningham: These are the cloth maps, right?

Powers: The cloth maps. One of these flights would be going, and we didn't know just which one it would be, and either in my seat pack or my pockets, or somewhere, I had both sets of the escape maps.

Cunningham: I see.

Powers: And there was writing on one of these packages that was sent from [redacted] saying in case one is cancelled here are the others and initials. And its, it wasn't too good, but if I had made up a story, it wouldn't have hammed out with the one that was released ~~to~~ to the papers back in states, but it was impossible to stick to. The Russian news, that was the worst thing, and only my escape maps of the Soviet Union. I figured that if any flights like this were to go in the future, it would be a good idea for the man to have maps of an entirely different area. Say, [redacted]

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[redacted] and even have a flight map showing this route.

Cunningham: You mean as a sort of decoy?

Powers: As a decoy. I believe that maybe, well, with this camera

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equipment I'd destroyed completely, they probably wouldn't have believed me, but I could have stuck to it anyway.

Cunningham: Sure.

Powers: But, the way it was they had the evidence.

Cunningham: Yeah.

Powers: They had it.

Cunningham: Did the major part of their interrogation on the aircraft systems, etc., did that occur prior to or after your visit to Gorki? In other words-

Powers: Prior to.

Cunningham: Prior to, which you figure in the month of May, wasn't it, when they took you?

Powers: I don't remember exactly when it was, but it was in May.

Cunningham: So there was no attempt to take you first to there, and then interrogate you knowing, knowing how much they had-

Powers: That was what I had assumed. I had no idea what kind of condition any of this stuff would be in, and when they were going to interrogate me, and I told them politely that I knew nothing at all about any of the equipment whatsoever, and never gave them any information. I told them we had a

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tracking camera, because when they took me in, I saw someone bring in a little tracking camera, and I said that that was used to course directions for weather flights, well, we used it on all flights.

So that we could plot the course, etc.

Cunningham: What piece of equipment on the aircraft seemed to interest them the most you had, looking back on the whole total of interrogation?

Powers: Well, they asked a lot of questions about the camera, the camera, but-

Cunningham: Questions of what kind?

Powers: And they had some information. I don't know whether it was correct information, but they had focal lens, etc., -

Cunningham: Did they ask you about resolution of the finished product?

Powers: I told them I'd never seen it finished.

Cunningham: I see.

Powers: And, they did not believe me.

Cunningham: One of things which occurred to me, of course, afterwards is that you were in the group down at [redacted] when Colonel

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Geary and I came down after having been in [redacted] and  
we had a, you remember, we had a display of selected  
portions of the finished product?

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Powers: Um hum.

Cunningham: In the Operations Room, and I kicked myself in the shins  
any number of times after that, because I thought that they  
might, you know, ask you this question, had you seen the  
finished product?

Powers: Well, they asked it, but I had never seen it.

Cunningham: Yeah. Did they quiz you at all on [redacted] 25X1

Powers: Yes, they-

Cunningham: Ask you what the hell it was for, or how?

Powers: They seemed to display quite a bit of interest in it that  
and we'd had a briefing on that, and I knew approximately  
how it worked, but I just told that that, as far as I knew,  
it was [redacted] and that I knew nothing  
about it, had never seen it. I was just told to turn on the  
switch.

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Cunningham: They still had this, the on and off switch [redacted] I  
take it, amongst their souvenirs, didn't they?

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Powers: I don't remember seeing it, and besides this wasn't the regular panel. It was different from [redacted]

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panel.

Cunningham: Did they ask you at all about -

Powers: Let me say this here, from the condition of the tail,

they probably got [redacted] in pretty good condition.

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Cunningham: This was the hunch we had. In fact, some of the photographs, not the photographs that they handed out, but the photographs that we managed to get from people who had gone through the display. They were a little bit more indicative, although they kept the hustling through if they had a camera, indicated that the compartment back there had been contained fairly intact.

Powers: It looked like -

Cunningham: There was some sort of reflection on the bottom part of the housing, you know -

Powers: No, I didn't see that.

Cunningham: But, nothing up there in that little pressure-

Powers: They wouldn't let me get too close, I had to stay back behind the ropes and look down from there. To me, the

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tail section didn't look as damaged as this shows, as well as I can remember. I noticed particularly that the wings had holes in them, and I had no idea, I thought to myself that it may have been some sort of flak ~~xx~~ but I think I would have felt-

Cunningham: During that time you were getting out of the window or dissembling, you did not see any flak or shrapnel, or you saw no other airplane in the air making runs on bits of pieces of the airplane, etc?

Powers: That's what surprised me, even in the parachute, and on the ground, the only thing I noticed, I'm almost positive of the, was the parachute. Well, I would say, it was high, maybe 10,000 feet. I could just see, and it was, I think, colored. It might have been some red in it or maybe something similar to the one I had, orange or something, and I couldn't imagine what it would be, and at the time the thought that hit me was when ~~is~~ my chute opened, shot toward the seat pack, because I felt and couldn't find it, and maybe the (dinghy) had inflated, but then I got to thinking that the dinghy would have ~~be~~ fell

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faster than I would have in the chute, so I'm almost positive that . . . and these other men asked me-

Cunningham: About two?

Powers: If there were two up there. They saw the same thing up there.

Cunningham: Did they at all, Frank, ask you about companies that were involved in the project beyond Lockheed? Did they ask you about any of the suppliers?

Powers: Well, you see they had some of this equipment made by these different places, but they didn't ask me about it. I told them that I knew nothing about this, and that I never saw equipment loaded or anything. They asked, well, they had the flight instruments, or what was left from them, etc. As a matter of fact, they were at such and such a place and even when going around, they had me look occasionally at it and read it off. I don't ~~don't~~ think they could have caught me with anything, but as far as asking me questions about the companies, I cannot remember saying one.

Cunningham: They didn't, in other words, assume that the companies had representatives overseas with you?

Powers: I didn't get the impression that they had even thought about that.

Cunningham: In the course of the interrogation on this questioning, did they ask you questions having to do with the number of military versus civilians?

Powers: Yes, they were very interested in that, and I just told them it was sort of a combination. Now, I got to thinking later, maybe that was a mistake. I didn't know quite what to do, whether to make it military or civilian or both, since I was a civilian. There had to be civilians, and since we were operating out of a military base, there had to be military, so I said it was sort of a combination.

Cunningham: It seemed obvious that they had, in other words, Colonel Shelton, did they give you the works on Colonel Shelton?

It seems as though they were paying an awful lot of attention to him.

Powers: Yes, they wanted to know about him, and I told them again because I thought that would be the thing to do.

Cunningham: That was in the framework of your instructions.

Powers: I thought it would have been there, and I wanted it to appear that anything that might be in the papers that I was telling the absolute truth to them, so that I could hide some of this other stuff.

Cunningham: As a result of another debriefing of another U.S. citizen, temporarily in their custody, the interrogator of this other party made a wild statement at one point. This was oh, last summer. That in the eyes of the Soviet Union, the master badmen, as far as they could see were, what the heck was it, there were three people, President Eisenhower was the first, the second was Allen Dulles, and the third was Colonel William Sheldon. The arch enemy of the Soviet Union.

Powers: They just didn't like any of the American Government.

Cunningham: I'm afraid not. Did they ever attempt to discuss with you who made the decisions on these flights?

Powers: Yes, they tried their best to find out about that.

Cunningham: Did they try to slant your answers to the military, or were they trying to slant them to the President, or did they try to get you to want to say they were . . . ?

Powers: Well, I told them all I knew was I didn't know until shortly before, that we usually waited on a radio call before taking off.

Cunningham: Did they want to know where that call came from?

Powers: Yes, and I said I had no idea. They were interested in communications also, and I said nobody could get around those people, so I don't know nothing about it.

Cunningham: You mean what kind of service the base had and all that sort of thing?

Powers: No, the detachment. They were interested in that. I think they even brought up, let's see, I don't remember about that, but they were talking about the detachment. I don't remember whether they brought up the base communications or not.

Cunningham: Did they try to push you on the question whether the communications, that is those pertaining to flight operations, for example, were on different circuits than used by the military, were they on agency?

Powers: Well, they were trying to find this out and I told them I had no idea where they came from.

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